UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/46/PV.85
6 May 1992

ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 85th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 6 May 1992, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. FLORES BERMUDEZ (Honduras)
(Vice-President)

- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: requests for reopening of the consideration of agenda item 98 (b) (Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms) [8] (continued)

- Note by the Secretary-General

- Note verbale from Morocco

/...

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

92-60603 8664V (E)

- Human rights questions [98] (continued]

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms: draft decision A/46/L.70

In the absence of the President, Mr. Flores Bermudez (Honduras), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 8 (continued)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK: REQUESTS FOR REOPENING OF THE CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 98 (b) (HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS):

(a) NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/901)

(b) NOTE VERBALE FROM MOROCCO (A/46/902)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The General Assembly is meeting this morning pursuant to a request of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Human Rights, contained in a note by the Secretary-General circulated as document A/46/901. The note by the Secretary-General also transmits other recommendations adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its second session in Geneva from 30 March to 10 April 1992 for action by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. The General Assembly also has before it a related request in the note verbale from Morocco contained in document A/46/902.

In order to enable the Assembly to take the required action, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 98, entitled "Human rights questions, including alterantive approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to reopen consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 98 for the sole purpose of considering the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee concerning the dates and venue of the World Conference on Human Rights?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to point out that a recommendation of the Preparatory Committee involves the reconsideration of decisions taken by the General Assembly in paragraph 4 (a) (iii) of its resolution 46/116 of 17 december 1991. In order for the Assembly to take up any other recommendation in that regard, it must first agree, under rule 81 of its rules of procedure, to reconsider the relevant provisions contained in paragraph 4 (a) (iii) of resolution 46/116.

May I take it that the Assembly agrees to reconsider the relevant provisions of paragraph 4 (a) (iii) of resolution 46/116?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): May I furthermore take it that the General Assembly wishes to consider this item directly in plenary meeting?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 98 (continued)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

(b) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS: DRAFT DECISION A/46/L.70

Mr. TRAXLER (Italy): As is recalled in the document under our consideration, the Italian Government had made a preliminary offer of the city of Venice as a possible venue for the forthcoming World Conference on Human Rights in 1993. However, the formalization of this Italian offer would have required parliamentary approval of a special bill to that effect. Unfortunately, the requirements of time do not permit a securing of this parliamentary approval before today's special meeting of the General Assembly, which had been decided upon in Geneva.

(Mr. Traxler, Italy)

As a result, the Italian Government has decided not to formalize its offer so as to enable the Assembly to take a decision today on the date and venue of the World Conference. As a matter of fact, we have taken note of the draft decision submitted by Morocco, and my Government is fully prepared to endorse it.

I should like to take this opportunity to express the sincere appreciation of the Italian Government to delegations that supported our offer when it was put forward. We are very grateful for that support. At the same time, should the draft decision submitted by Morocco be adopted, I wish to extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Government of Austria for the success of the human rights Conference in Vienna in 1993.

Mr. KRENKEL (Austria): I should like to thank you personally, Sir, for convening this meeting of the General Assembly to take a decision on the time and venue of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights. I should also like to express the sincere thanks of my Government to the Ambassador of Italy for the statement he has just made.

I should also like to take this opporunity to express our gratitude to the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco for taking up the request of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference to reopen agenda item 98 (b) and for its presentation of the draft decision that is now before the Assembly. It is very well known that Morocco is playing an essential role in the preparatory process of the Conference and at the same time acting as the main sponsor of resolutions concerning the World Conference in the General Assembly and at the Commission on Human Rights.

On 31 March, the Austrian Foreign Minister, Mr. Mock, extended in the name of the Austrian Government an invitation to host the World Conference on Human Rights at Vienna in June 1993. I wish to confirm that we issued

(Mr. Krenkel, Austria)

this invitation in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243. In extending this invitation, my Government wishes to highlight the importance that Austria attaches to en effective international system for the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. I can assure members that Austria will spare no effort to provide the United Nations and the delegations with excellent conference facilities and to create the framework necessary for a successful World Conference on Human Rights.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): In the light of the statements made by the representatives of Italy and Austria, there is now one invitation, extended in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, to host the World Conference on Human Rights, that of the Government of Austria.

I should now like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the note verbale dated 1 May 1992, contained in document A/46/902, addressed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative of Morocco, which contains the text of a proposal in the form of a draft decision on the dates and venue of the World Conference on Human Rights. The draft decision has now been distributed to all members of the General Assembly as document A/46/L.70.

I call on the representative of Morocco to introduce the draft decision.

Mr. BENJELLOUN-TOUIMI (Morocco) (interpretation from French): At the outset, my delegation wishes to extend to you, Mr. President, its sincere thanks for having made possible the reopening of the consideration of agenda item 98 (b), on human rights questions, in order that a decision could be taken on the venue of the World Conference on Human Rights.

My delegation is most grateful to the Government of Italy, and especially to the Government of Austria for its offer to host the World Conference on Human Rights at Vienna in June 1993.

In order to enable the Government of Austria to begin in good time the process of preparing for the World Conference on Human Rights and thereby to ensure full success for that important international gathering, we hope that the General Assembly will pronounce itself as soon as possible on the draft decision that I have the honour to introduce on behalf of my country.

The Austrian Government is prepared to host the World Conference on Human Rights at Vienna in June 1993, following the withdrawal of offers by the Governments of Germany and Italy to host the Conference.

After consultations with the delegations concerned, the delegation of Morocco wishes to make two revisions to the draft decision as it appears in document A/46/902.

The first revision is to add the following paragraph at the beginning of the draft decision:

"Recalling its resolution 46/116 of 17 December 1991 on the World Conference on Human Rights".

(Mr. Benjelloun-Touimi, Morocco)

With the second revision, the second paragraph of the draft decision would read as follows:

"Noting with deep satisfaction the decision of the Government of Austria to extend an invitation to host the World Conference on Human Rights at Vienna".

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): In fairness to all members, I wish to consult the Assembly before we proceed to the consideration of the draft decision before us.

Rule 78 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure, in regard to proposals before the Assembly, reads as follows, in part:

"... As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting ...".

Inasmuch as the text of the proposal was circulated to all delegations on Monday, 4 May 1992, as an annex to the note verbale (A/46/902) from the Permanent Representative of Morocco, dated 1 May 1992, may I take it that the Assembly agrees to proceed immediately to the consideration of the draft decision contained in document A/46/L.70?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision in document A/46/L.70, with the revisions just introduced by the representative of Morocco.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft decision as orally revised?

The draft decision, as orally revised, was adopted.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We have concluded our consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 98.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.